

MATERIALS FOR THE ORNITHOLOGY OF AFGHANISTAN.

BY

HUGH WHISTLER (Deceased).

PART V

[Continued from Vol. 45, No. 3 (1945), p. 302].

Columba palumbus casiotis (Bonaparte).

Specimens collected.—sex? Bharowal (Griffith); ♂ 15 March 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ 22 April 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); ♂ 22 Oct. 1934 Ashraf 4,000 ft. (Maconachie).

Wardlaw-Ramsay found the Eastern Woodpigeon in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. in flocks varying from ten to fifty individuals. Throughout April a large flock could always be found in the pine-forest between the main range of the Safed Koh and the village of Ali Khel. These paired by the middle of May and several nests were found.

According to his Journal, Griffith's specimen was obtained at Bharowal on 7 March 1840.

St. John and Swinhoe say that the Woodpigeon is very common in the large gardens about Kandahar.

Columba oenas Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—♂ 2 ♀ 28 Nov. 1884 Karabagh (Aitchison).

These, the only records of the Stock-Dove in Afghanistan, suggest that it is a winter visitor.

Columba eversmanni Bonaparte.

Specimens collected.—sex? Bharowal Soorgunge near Chughur Serai (Griffith); 2 ♂ 3 ♀ 22-23 April 1885 Tirphul, 2 ♂ 28 April 1885 Tomam-agh (Aitchison); sex? 1 June Min Darakht, Maimanah (Yate); 2 ♂ 2 ♀ 7-10 May Danaghori 2,300 ft., 2 ♂ 20 May 1937 Kunduz 1,400 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Commenting on his series of Eastern Stock-Doves in the above list, Aitchison says that they were nesting in trees in the bed of the Hari-Rud river in considerable numbers. Meinertzhagen first met with this bird at Danaghori where it was quite common, often feeding in the cultivation and marsh-land with the Rock-Pigeon but segregated in its breeding area, the groves of mulberry and old stubs. Birds were flushed from holes in the trees and their organs were ripe for breeding in the second week of May. They were common also at Haibak but outnumbered by the Rock-Pigeon. At Kunduz they were common and breeding, the Rock-Pigeon being then in a minority. At Kunduz they were breeding also in ruined buildings. Six out of fifteen birds shot by Meinertzhagen's party had had their tails recently pulled out, the new feathers being then in growth.

In Seistan, Cumming only saw a single specimen and that he procured at Kuhak on 28 April 1905.

Columba livia gaddi Zarudny & Loudon.

Specimens collected.—♀ Khorsa (Griffith); ♀ 30 Dec. 1880, ♀ 4 Jan. 1881, ♂ 20 March 1881 (Swinhoe); juv. 30 Jan. 1881 Kandahar (St. John); sex? 22 Feb. Chahar Shamba (Yate); sex? December Lab-i-Baring, ♀ 22 April 1905 (Annandale); ♂ 27 August 1933 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 16 April Ghorband 9,000 ft., ♂ 19 April Balula 8,000 ft., 2 ♂ 20 April Bamian 9,000 ft., ♂ 26 April Akrobat, 3 ♂ 2 ♀ 12 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The hybridisation of the Blue Rock-Dove with the domestic pigeon appears to have reached its apogee in Afghanistan and all writers comment on this

fact and the varieties of plumage to which it gives rise. Wardlaw-Ramsay found them common in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. in May and June and attributes their great variation of plumage to hybridisation. Yate (Northern Afghanistan, p. 46) has the following interesting note:—'The nearer one gets to Herat the thicker the pigeons become and the villages round the city simply swarm with them. The fields are alive with flocks but woe to the man who shoots them as they are all considered private property and a regular source of income. The round towers at the corners of the villages are generally made into pigeon houses in addition to the regular square-built pigeon towers that one sees dotted about the country. The birds have to be fed throughout the country or otherwise they go off to a more hospitable place as it is the object of every owner to tempt as many birds as possible to take up their residence in his particular tower for the breeding season. A large tower, it is said, will produce as much as 15 kharwars (1 kharwar=10 maunds Indian) of manure in a year and the ordinary round bastion-shaped tower at the corner of a village produces at least 6 or 7 kharwars. Each kharwar sells at the rate of 15 krans or 6 rupees.'

The Rock-pigeon is found in Seistan (Cumming) and St. John notes that enormous flocks occur everywhere at Kandahar in winter. They commence nesting early in March. Both St. John and Swinhoe discuss the variations in plumage and their connection with tame stock.

The above summary was written before Meinertzhagen's account appeared with which it has little agreement. He says that domestic pigeons are not very usual in Afghanistan and he saw no evidence of feral birds. His account of what he considered truly wild stock is as follows:—'The Rock-pigeon is apparently resident throughout Northern Afghanistan up to at least 9,000 ft. in suitable localities. At Danaghori they were in about equal numbers with *Columba eversmanni*, at Haibak the latter was in a minority, but at Kunduz *eversmanni* predominated. They were often in small mixed parties and did not appear to compete one with another. Though *eversmanni* occasionally nests in banks and buildings (never in cliffs), the usual nesting site is a hole in a tree, a situation never used by Rock-pigeons.

The largest colony of Rock-Pigeons we saw was at Bamian, where they had taken advantage of human excavations and were breeding in numbers on the Buddhas and in the rock-dwellings.'

The two accounts, of course, refer to different areas and are divided by a number of years so there is not much point in discussing how they may be reconciled. Both grey-rumped and white-rumped birds occur throughout the country. Afghan birds have hitherto been attributed to *intermedia* or *neglecta* but Meinertzhagen who has had the best series for examination attributes his specimens to the Persian race *gaddi* and Swinhoe's and St. John's specimens which I have seen would I think pass as that form.

Streptopelia turtur arenicola (Hartert).

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 1 ♀ 12 May 1885 Khusan (Aitchison); sex? 2 July Chilik, Afghan Turkestan (Yate); ♀ 4 July 1933 Ashraf Valley 3,700 ft. (Maconachie); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 8 May Danaghori 2,300 ft., ♀ 20 May 1937 Kunduz 1,400 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Aitchison states that the Common Turtle-dove suddenly arrived on the Hari-Rud in large flocks about 12 May. Meinertzhagen first met with them at Danaghori on 8 May where they were common and had just arrived. By 10 May, they were still more abundant and pairs were courting and evidently preparing to breed. They were equally abundant at Haibak and Kunduz from the second week in May and on the return journey they were common at Doshi on 22 May. Maconachie obtained a female in the Ashraf Valley on 4 July 1933.

This Turtle-dove evidently does not breed in Southern Afghanistan as the only record is afforded by a specimen Colonel Swinhoe is said to have obtained at Kandahar. I have not been able to trace it.

Streptopelia orientalis meena (Sykes). [= *ferrago* auct.].

Specimens collected.—sex? 23 May, ♂ 5 June 1879 Byan Khel (Wardlaw-Ramsay); 2 ♂ 1 May Doshi 2,750 ft., ♂ 13 May Haibak 3,000 ft., ♂ 24 May 1937 Ghorband 8,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

'First met with at Doshi, when four birds were seen feeding on fallow land. Their organs were ripe for breeding. Again at Haibak on 12 May a single pair was found in the mulberry orchards, another pair at Baghlan on 18 May and several pairs were found breeding in the Ghorband Valley at about 8,000 ft. on 24 May where they were absent in mid-April' (Meinertzhagen).

Apart from the above records, which incidentally confirm the correctness of keeping *orientalis* and *turtur* as separate species, the Eastern Turtle-Dove is only recorded from the Sufed Koh where Whitehead says it is common in summer in the woods from 7,000 ft. to tree limit. There Wardlaw-Ramsay says they arrived at Byan Khel 7,000 ft. in large numbers between 12 and 26 May.

***Streptopelia senegalensis ermanni* (Bonaparte).**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 14 May 1937 Haibak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen). Meinertzhagen met this race of the Little Brown Dove at Haibak where it was breeding in buildings in mid-May. He also observed it at Kunduz on 20 May, where there were a few about the old ruined town.

***Streptopelia senegalensis cambaiensis* (Gmelin).**

Specimens collected.—♂ 10 March 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ ♀ 19 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 11 June 1933 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 31 May 1937 Jalalabad (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen found the Little Brown Dove breeding commonly at Jalalabad on 31 May, on which day a nest with eggs was found. He also observed it as far west as Nimla; and Maconachie obtained it at Logar on 11 June. It is presumably a resident in this area as it is in Southern Afghanistan where St. John and Swinhoe found it common. It commences breeding at Kandahar in the latter end of February and is very common in the city, nesting in holes in the mud walls.

***Streptopelia chinensis suratensis* (Gmelin).**

Nobody has obtained a specimen of the Spotted-dove in Afghanistan but it is recorded by Hutton who says it is common during the summer at Kandahar. Meinertzhagen observed it at Nimla and Jalalabad on 31 May but says it was not common.

***Streptopelia decaocto decaocto* (Frivaldsky).**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Chughar Serai, sex? Khursak, 2 ♂ Kabul, sex? Kandahar (Griffith); ♂ 7 May 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ 15 Dec. 1880, ♀ 14 April 1881 Kandahar, 2 ♂ 1 May 1881 Gungazai (Swinhoe); ♂ 7 May 1905 Khwaja Ahmed (Cumming); ♂ 17 May 1933 Kabul (Maconachie).

Wardlaw-Ramsay found the Indian Ring-dove not nearly as abundant as *S.d. meena* in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. He first observed it there on 10 June. At Kandahar, according to Swinhoe, it is common throughout the year, avoiding the city and being found in the surrounding gardens. Nests were being built in April. It must be fairly widely distributed in the country, as besides the localities provided by the above listed specimens, Meinertzhagen found a pair breeding in the Legation garden at Kabul on 25 May. He also observed it on the Upper Kabul River near the Unai Pass at about 7,000 ft. in late May and breeding at Jalalabad on 31 May.

***Oenopelia tranquebarica* (Hermann).**

Meinertzhagen observed several Red Turtle-Doves in the hotel compound at Jalalabad on 31 May. Doubtless a summer visitor.

***Pterocles orientalis* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♂ Subzeekote, ♀ Afghanistan, ♂ 13 July 1839 Gojhaur, ♀ 25 Oct. 1839 Kabul (Griffith); ♂ April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 2-20 Jan. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 3 Nov. Kin, ♀ 5 Nov., ♂ 6 Nov. Kagin, ♂ 9 Nov. 1884 Karez dasht, ♀ ♀ 12 March 1885 Gulran (Aitchison); sex? 1896 Shorawzk (Maynard).

The earliest record of the Imperial Sandgrouse in Afghanistan is provided by Vigne (p. 110) though I cannot quite identify his locality. About 12 June

1836 he was on the plain of Suliman Khel between Ser-i-Koh and Dsharah Ridge and relates how his party frequently disturbed the *boora korra* (black breast) or large Sandgrouse with its gurgling cry. These birds afforded him good sport to the delight of the Lohanis many of whom had never seen anything killed with shot before. These birds must have been on their breeding ground and it is clear that this species is widely distributed as a breeding bird in Afghanistan. As regards South-east Afghanistan, St. John says that a few remain to breed, and Swinhoe adds that they commence pairing early in March, eggs being said to be laid about the middle of April. This is supplemented by C. H. T. Marshall (*Stray Feathers*, vol. viii, p. 492) who says that he has just heard—possibly from St. John—that *P. arenarius* was found breeding in numbers on the Wuzer Korey plain, about 10 miles from Kandahar. No eggs were taken as the discoverers did not wish to disturb the birds.

In North-west Afghanistan Aitchison and Yate* (p. 45) found them breeding in pairs all over the plains in May and June, the nest being a mere hollow scratched in the ground by the side of a tuft of wormwood. Yate remarks on the excellence of the young birds for the table.

It would seem, however, that the Imperial Sandgrouse is found in greater numbers as a winter visitor or passage migrant. Swinhoe says they are found in the Kandahar area throughout the year, but St. John says that the majority of the immense flocks seen in winter move northwards in the spring.

In the North-east, Yate (p. 45) under 14 Sept. 1885 at camp Robat-i-Afghan says that the Sandgrouse are now appearing in regular flocks and Aitchison also speaks of them occurring in large flocks during autumn and spring.

Koelz (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, vol. 52, p. 81) would separate Afghan birds as *Pterocles orientalis bangsi*.

***Pterocles alchata* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♀ Afghanistan (Griffith); 2 ♂ 18 June, 3 ♀ n.d. Kham-i-ab, Afghan Turkestan (Yate).

Under the description of the 'white-breasted pintail Sandgrouse' Yate mentions meeting the Large Pin-tailed Sandgrouse at Khusan on 12 Oct. 1885 and in May in the desert that lies between Andkhui and the Oxus. In the latter area he says he used to see them coming to drink in small numbers wherever a few inches of mud and water were left. As Yate's specimens were obtained in June it seems safe to assume that this Pin-tailed Sandgrouse breeds in Afghan Turkestan.

St. John considered that it bred in the desert between the Helmund and Kandahar as he met it there in July. He says it is more of a desert form than *arenarius* and in consequence not so generally distributed. At Kandahar Swinhoe says several flocks were about for a week or ten days about Christmas time. He killed five from a passing flock about half a mile in front of the Idghar Gate.

***Pterocles coronatus atratus* Hartert.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ Bassoolah 1,500 ft. (Griffith); ♂ 1896 Shorawak (Maynard).

St. John says that the Coronetted Sandgrouse is the only small Sandgrouse of Southern Afghanistan where it is very generally distributed though nowhere numerous. It is commonly seen in small parties of six or so and is more active on the ground than other sandgrouse, running about and picking up seeds like a partridge in contrast with the staid and leisurely movements of *arenarius* and *alchata*. It evidently breeds in the Helmund desert for he found it common between Kandahar and the river in July.

There is no record of it out of this area.

***Pterocles senegallus* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♂ 11 March 1896 Lijjikarez 2,400 ft. (Maynard); ♀ 21 Dec. 1918 Lutak Road, Seistan, 1,600 ft. (Annandale & Kemp).

According to Cumming this is said to be the common sandgrouse of Seistan and Annandale & Kemp's bird, which I have been able to examine through the courtesy of Dr. Bains Prashad, is certainly a specimen of the Spotted Sandgrouse though it was recorded as *Pterocles arenarius caudacuta* (sic).

[It is not clear whether the Common Sandgrouse (*Pterocles seuegalensis ellioti*) actually occurs in Afghanistan. Hutton certainly says that it is common throughout the southern parts of Afghanistan and that he has seen their nests in August and the young ready to fly by the end of September, but this seems to have been due to confusion with some other species.

It is useless speculating as to the identity of the pair of sandgrouse Wardlaw-Ramsay saw flying over the camp in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. at the same hour in the same direction on three successive evenings.]

***Pucrasia maculophya castanea* Gould.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ Kafaristan.

According to Griffith's Journal the Koklas was brought in to him at Bala Chughar Serai on 9 March 1840.

I can trace no other information about this pheasant in Afghanistan and the above types are, so far as I know, the only specimens at present existing in any collection.

***Phasianus colchicus principalis* Sclater.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 3 ♀ 29 Dec. 1884, 2 ♂ 3 Feb. 1885 Balamorghab, 1 ♂ 2 ♀ 15 Feb. 1885 Karawal Khana, Badghis (Aitchison); ♂ 10 Feb. Chahar Shamba, ♂ 10 March ♂ 20 March ♀ 26 March ♀ 25 March Maruchak, Murghab (Yate).

The first example of this pheasant to reach the notice of a scientist was probably the mutilated specimen sent to Hutton (p. 782) from Herat by Lieut. North of the Bombay Engineers. It was recorded by Blyth under the name of *Phasianus colchicus* and from his description appears to have been an old or barren female in partial male dress.

It remained however for the officers of the Boundary Commission to collect a good series of skins on which the bird was separated as a distinct species by Sclater. The Commission found that the pheasant was extraordinarily numerous in north-west Afghanistan in the swampy tamarisk and grass jungles of the river beds—jungles where the tiger and the wild pig were also found. Kuhsan and Tomam-agma on the Hari-Rud; Kara Tepi in the Kushk Valley; Maruchak, Shukar-Gujar, Karawal Khan, Chahar Shamba, Bokum and Kila Wali, all in or near the Morghab Valley; and Chashm-i-Sher near the Chahar Dar Pass of the Hindu Kush—all these are localities where the birds were found as described by Yate in his 'Northern Afghanistan or Letters from the Afghan Boundary Commission' (pp. 45, 59, 102, 112, 124, 125, 129, 207 and 326) where a good idea is conveyed of the habits and habitat of the bird. It was then sufficiently numerous for 72 birds to be bagged in the best days shooting and more than 400 were killed in the march of 30 miles up the Morghab.

The breeding season is fairly early as Yate states on 2 April that the pheasants were then all breeding, the hens having begun to lay a month previously. It is curious for English readers to learn of this species that 'it not only wades through the water in trying to make from one point of vantage to another, but swims, and seems to be quite at home in these thickets, where there is always water to a depth of two or three feet'. Morning and evening the pheasants fed on the more open and dry country around. The local method of riding down the birds on horseback in the snow and catching them by hand is described by Yate.

***Phasianus colchicus bianchi* Buturlin.**

Specimens collected.—9 ♂ 8 ♀ 4-9 May 1937 Danaghor 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

'This pheasant was only met with in the marshes in the Danaghor Plains. They also occur at Kunduz in similar country, but probably have no intermediate station owing to lack of suitable country. Birds were laying in the first week of May. . . . The Danaghor pheasants roost and spend the heat of the day in the extensive reed-beds, coming out to water-meadows and crops in the morning and evening. If flushed they at once make for the reeds, and if they find one between them and the marshes they fly back over one's head. Nothing will drive them from their home'. (Meinertzhagen).

This series was identified by Meinertzhagen after comparison with topotypical material in the Leningrad Museum.

Note.—Three pheasants of the *colchicus* group are in the Maconachie collection. Unfortunately they were evacuated from the British Museum before I had examined them or ascertained the date.

Loophorus impejanus (Latham).

The Monal Pheasant according to Whitehead is fairly numerous on the Sufed Koh from 9,000 ft. to tree-limit. So Wardlaw-Ramsay's informants were right who told him that they had seen the birds on the Safed Koh and the Peiwar Range and that they were plentiful.

Whitehead met young fairly strong on the wing on 27 July.

In 1840 Griffith notes in his Journal that the Monal is not uncommon on all the hills about Bala Chughur Serai, the local name being *Moorgi Zureen*.

Coturnix coturnix coturnix (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—2 ♂ 26-27 April Tomam-agma, Hari Rud, ♀ 4 May Tirphul, Hari-Rud, ♀ 21 May 1885 Sang-haji, Badghis (Aitchison); ♂ 4 April Chahar Shamba (Yate); ♀ 19 April Karawal Khana, Murghab, ♂ 6 May Chahar Shamba (Yate); ♀ 22 Sept. 1904 Kuhak (Cumming); ♂ ♀ 4 May 1934 Bagram (Maconachie); 3 ♂ 22-26 May-April 1937 Bamian 8,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Common or grey Quail seems to be fairly generally distributed as a breeding bird in Afghanistan. Aitchison says a very few pairs were met with all over Badghis. St. John says they breed in small numbers in cornfields in the Kandahar Kuhak 30 March (1 egg), and Kila-i-Konah on 25 April (10 eggs). Cumming Province. Cumming mentions nests found in 1904 at Zahidan 22 March (1 egg), also implies that a few are found in Seistan in winter. In the main however the bird is evidently a spring and autumn passage migrant evidently in considerable numbers. The spring passage takes place in March, April and May. At Kandahar the Quail arrives in the middle of March according to Swinhoe or the end of March according to Hutton. At Bharowal in 1840 Griffith notes their arrival on 26 April in his Journal. In the north Meinertzhagen did not observe Quail until the night of 20-21 April at Bamian 8,500 ft. when numbers arrived and the local population turned out to noose them. He noted another large influx on 26 April but no more were seen, save for a single bird at Haibak on 15 May.

There is little information about the autumn passage save that it takes place in September and October. Griffith mentions Quail in his Journal as abundant at Bamian from 3 to 6 September, at Zohwak on 6 September, abundant at Kurzar 10 September at the Sorghab River on 9 October and as scarce at Sultanpur on 20 October.

Quail are commonly kept by Afghans for fighting and in the spring nearly every man and boy is seen with one or two about him, often dancing the bird up and down on the hand to strengthen its legs.

Alectoris graeca (Meisner).

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Bala Chughur Serai (Griffith); 3 ♀ 17 Nov. Khusan, Hari-Rud, ♂ 28 Nov. Kar-o-bagh, ♂ 16 Dec. 1884 Bala Morghab (Aitchison); ♂ 1896 Khwaja Amran (Maynard); ♂ 27 August 1933 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♀ 11 April Tangi Gharo, Kabul 5,500 ft., ♂ 16 April Ghorband 6,000 ft., ♂ ♀ 27 April Dar-e-shikari 8,200 ft., ♀ 22 April 1937 Bamian 10,200 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Boundary Commission found the Chukor very numerous and in large coveys all over north-west Afghanistan from Khusan to Bala Morghab; and Yate (p. 56) gives an appreciative picture of the sport to be obtained when a pack of a hundred or more had been broken up in suitable cover in the bed of the Hari-Rud. He describes the Iskar Valley of the Hindu Kush as similarly swarming with chukor. These numbers have now no doubt been reduced with the general introduction of fire-arms but the bird is apparently still common. Meinertzhagen says it occurs in suitable country round Kabul north to Ghorband, Bamian and Doab but not much further north in spring and summer. In winter it descends and is then common at Doshi, Danaghori and Haibak though it does not seem to breed much below 5,500 ft.

Further to the north-east in Wakhan, Biddulph found the Chukor especially abundant in the valley between Panjah and Sarhad and the local people were then accustomed to hawk them.

The bird is also found in the hills of the south-eastern border and Whitehead says it occurs up to at least 8,000 ft. on the Safed Koh.

Meinertzhagen says birds were laying at the end of May in Afghan Turkestan and Wardlaw-Ramsay obtained a nest in the Hariab Valley on 16 June.

I am not fully satisfied as to the identity of Afghan Chukor and it may well be that more than one race occurs within the political boundaries. Meinertzhagen attributes his series to the race *falki* and Biddulph calls the Wakhan birds *pallidus*, while it seems probable that birds from the south-east should belong to the Persian and Baluch race *koraiкови*.

Ammoperdix griseogularis griseogularis (Brandt).

Specimens collected.—♀ Bala Chughur Serai (Griffith); ♂ 29 May 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ 5 January 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 8 Nov. 1884 Karez-dasht (Aitchison); ♂ 10 March 1896 desert near Gazezah 2,500 ft. (Maynard); ♂ 5 July 1933 Asraf 3,700 ft. (Maconachie); 2 ♀ 16-17 May Haibak 3,000 ft., ♀ 22 May 1937 Barfak 3,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

In his Journal, Griffith says he found the Seeseet very common at Jagdulluck and very abundant at Gundamak and he also met it at Futtehabad and Bala Chughur Serai. It is now probably less common in those localities as Meinertzhagen found it decidedly scarce in Northern Afghanistan. In addition to the three specimens procured he only saw a pair at 10,000 ft. in the Bamian Hills on 24 April and another bird at Doab 5,000 ft. on 28 April. Aitchison says the most northerly locality at which he saw it was at Mont Do-Shakt near Kilki.

To the south-east it is found in broken and rocky ground by the hills of the Kandahar area and it was recorded as common by Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe.

Meinertzhagen's specimens were breeding in May.

Francolinus francolinus henrici Bonaparte.

Specimens collected.—♂ Kandahar (Griffith); ♀ 26 Oct. between Padda-Sultan and De-Kamran, ♀ 27 Oct. 1884 between De-Kamran and De-Doda Aitchison; ♀ juv. August 1904 Kuhak (Cumming).

Swinhoe says that a few Black Partridges are to be found in the gardens near Kandahar and one day he shot five over an Irish Setter. He heard the characteristic call at Kokeran on the River Argundab. St. John says it is found in suitable localities throughout the Kandahar province up to 4,000 ft., being very numerous in the tamarisk jungles of the Helmund and among the dwarf palms of That Chotial. Throughout Seistan it is—or was in Cumming's day—an extremely common bird in the extensive tamarisk jungles which cover the banks of the numerous streams. Bags of 28 brace and 22½ brace were killed by Major T. W. Irvine and Capt. R. C. Bell who were with the Mission. Eggs were obtained at Kuhak in April, May and June.

The only specimen I have been able to examine from South Afghanistan is Griffith's Kandahar bird which in my opinion agrees with *F. f. henrici*. Hutton remarks on a Kandahar specimen as pale and so does Annandale with reference to Cumming's Kuhak bird. Ticehurst would however assign these birds to *F. f. bogdanowi* (Zarudny).

The only other area where the Black Partridge is recorded is between Padda-Sultan, De-Kamran and De-Doda. Here numbers were shot by Aitchison's party but only two were preserved. I have examined the De-Kamran specimen which is in the British Museum and consider it very close to *henrici* though the underparts are very pale and lightly marked showing transition to *arabisticus*.

Tetraoallus himalayensis himalayensis Gray.

Specimens collected.—Sex? Afghanistan (Griffith); sex? 7 Oct. Dhap Darah, Hindu Kush (Yate); ♀ June 1933 Paghman Range (Maconachie); ♀ 21 April 1937 Bamian 10,500 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Griffith specimen may have come from Topeehee 9,000 ft. where he mentions the species under the date 2 Sept. 1840 in his Journal. Meinertzhagen

says two Snowcock were seen hanging in a shop in Kabul on 13 April. They were said to have been killed in the Paghman Hills. In the Ghorband Valley they were heard at 10,000 ft. in mid-April and at Bamian, south of the village, there were a few at between 9,000 and 12,000 ft. in April. Birds were breeding in the third week in April for the bird he shot had a fully-formed shell-less egg almost ready for laying.

Yate (p. 330) relates how the Hindu Kush specimen was caught by a Sower under a rock where they had seen it take refuge from the pursuit of an eagle. Maconachie's bird was brought alive from the Paghman Range.

The Snowcock also occurs on the Safed Koh where Whitehead found it from about 9,000 ft. to the summit in summer though it was rather scarce.

Rallus aquaticus korejewi Zarudny.

Specimens collected.—♂ 20 Oct. 1884 between Lundi and Rudbar, ♂ 10 Jan. 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); sex? 23 Dec. Maruchak, Morghab (Yate); ♀ 10 April 1937 Kabul (Meinertzhagen).

The above specimens provide the only records of the Water Rail in Afghanistan.

Crex crex (Linnaeus).

Specimen collected.—sex? 7 May Maruchak, Murghab (Yate).

Blyth states, apparently on the authority of a Captain Duncan who brought specimens, that the Land-Rail is a common summer visitor to Afghanistan but this presumably applies to the north only.

Porzana porzana (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 10 March 1881 Kandahar (St. John); sex? 9 April Karawal Khana, Murghab, sex? 30 April Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); ♀ 4 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

In addition to the above records, Blyth says that Barnes procured the Spotted Crake at Kabul and Hutton that it was shot at Kandahar.

Porzana parva (Scopoli).

Specimens collected.—♀ 7 Feb., ♀ 17 Feb., ♂ 18 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 6 Sept. 1904 Kuhak (Cumming).

According to Swinhoe and St. John, the Little Crake is common about the Kandahar marsh and the wheatfields on its borders about February. Cumming's Kuhak specimen was identified by Annandale with some hesitation.

Porzana pusilla pusilla (Pallas).

Specimens collected.—♀ 10 Feb., ♀ 17 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 7 Oct. 1884 between Gaz-i-cha and Safia (Aitchison); 2 sex? 24 April Kila Wali, Murghab (Yate); ♂ 5 April Chaharasia 5,700 ft., ♀ 7 Sept. 1933 Rahkol (Maconachie); ♀ 10 April 1937 Kabul (Meinertzhagen).

The above records supply our information about the Eastern Baillon's Crake in Afghanistan except that Swinhoe says that it is numerous about the Kandahar marsh where Hutton also mentions it.

Gallinula chloropus indicus Blyth.

Specimens collected.—sex? Kabul (Griffith); ♂ 7 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); sex? Band-i-Seistan (Cumming).

Griffith mentions the Moorhen in his Journal at Shah Bagh on 24 July 1841. It evidently is not common though Blyth mentions it at Kabul, Hutton says it was shot at Kandahar in winter and Meinertzhagen says that it was often heard in the marshes at Danaghori in May.

Porphyrio poliocephalus (Latham).

Specimens collected.—♀ 13 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 sex? Nov. 1934 near Kabul (Maconachie).

The main stronghold of the Purple Coot in Afghanistan is in the dense reed-beds of the Naizars of Seistan where it is numerous though seldom seen. Cumming obtained some live specimens which took kindly to captivity and

lived with the chickens belonging to the Mission boatmen; and Swinhoe also mentions a tame bird which lived in the transport square at Kandahar all the winter. Meinertzhagen says that a few birds are shot in the winter round Kabul by sportsmen out after snipe.

Fulica atra atra Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—♂ 22 Feb. 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♂ 4 ♀ 17-26 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 29 March 1885 Kalla-i-Maur, Badghis (Merk); sex? March Andkhui (Scully); ♂ ♀ 9 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring 1,600 ft. (Annandale).

The Coot is very abundant in enormous flocks in the reed-beds of the Naizars and the Hamuns of Seistan, according to both Cumming and Annandale. It is resident and Cumming took three clutches of eggs near Adimi on 14 March 1904. Large numbers are caught for food in nets stretched across channels in the reed-beds. These nets are hung on sticks stuck in the mud, the lower edge being in the water and the upper edge about 2 ft. above the surface. The flocks are driven into the nets with the aid of rafts.

Elsewhere the Coot seems to be a winter visitor or passage migrant, being particularly common in the reedy moat of the old city of Kandahar where Swinhoe says it arrived in enormous numbers in February. Meinertzhagen saw several hanging up for sale in Kabul on 13 April.

Grus leucogeranus Pallas.

Blyth (apud Hutton, p. 791) states that the Great White Crane was procured at Kabul by Sir Alexander Barnes.

Grus grus (Linnaeus).

Specimen collected.—sex? 7 Feb. 1903 Khwaji Ali (Cumming).

Anthropoides virgo (Linnaeus).

There is no doubt that most of the cranes which visit the Punjab on winter must pass over Afghanistan on passage, but there are very few actual records of the fact.

For the spring passage Whitehead remarks that 'Residents at Parachinar say that Cranes on migration fly straight over the Safed Kob Range (lowest point 11,760 ft.) and not round the western shoulder, but that they are frequently forced to turn back by storms. Major Magrath, too, has often observed them returning south-east to Bannu after a storm'.

Cumming mentions the above specimen which was shot by Col. A. H. McMahon on the banks of the Helmund on 7 Feb. 1903 and says that he himself saw a flight passing over the Mission Camp at Kuhak on 30 March 1905.

At Kabul Meinertzhagen was informed that cranes pass north in large numbers in spring during the first half of April.

For the autumn we have the authority of Yate (p. 56). At camp Khusan in October 1885 he noted that large flocks were seen daily wending their way south doubtless on the road to India.

These records appear under the names of one or other of the two species, the Common Crane and the Demoiselle, but I have combined them because in my experience the identifications of cranes in the field are usually quite unreliable (though they are not difficult to separate by those who know the distinguishing points). The single specimen collected at Khwaji Ali has in fact appeared in print in different papers under both names in turn. Both species do however migrate through Afghanistan as Meinertzhagen saw a Demoiselle hanging in a poulterer's shop in Kabul on 13 April and Barnes figured a specimen from Kabul as the 'Shuck Duruck'.

Otis tarda dybowskii Taczanowski.

Specimens collected.—♂ 29 Jan. 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); sex? Jan. 1935 Danaghori 2,000 ft. (Maconachie).

Aitchison's specimen of the Great Bustard was shot by Lieut. Rawling out of a flock of seven. Weight 17 lbs.; weight of solid vegetable matter in the gizzard 2 lbs.; spread 7 ft. 4 in. This flock had been seen for fully a month in the vicinity and one had apparently been killed by a wild animal as feathers

were picked up in large quantities. The bird was shot when the flock had been seen to alight on the top of a small hill with extremely precipitous sides, up which the sportsmen climbed. The stench of the bird was so great that the carcass was nearly abandoned by Mr. Rawlins.

Meinertzhagen ascertained that the Great Bustard is a regular winter visitor to the Danaghori Plains but it had just gone by the first week in May. Macoachie's specimen confirms this locality.

Tetrax tetrax orientalis Hartert.

Specimens collected.—sex? Koolsei near Khujah (Griffith); ♀ Nov. 1880 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 12 March Maruchak, Murghab, sex? Dec. Chaman-i-Bed, Badghis (Yate).

The Little Bustard would seem to be a winter visitor to Kandahar. The above records are supplemented by St. John who says that he saw several specimens shot by sportsmen at Kandahar and once put up one himself when riding across country 12 miles south of that city in April.

Chlamydotis undulata macqueeni (Gray).

Specimens collected.—♀ 12 Feb. 1881 Abdul Rahman (Swinhoe); sex? Shorawak (Maynard); ♀ 25 March 1934 Logur 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

The Houbara Bustard is fairly plentiful in Seistan during the spring according to Cumming, being found on the *dasht* salt-covered plains and sand-hills near cultivation. Four birds were trapped by Seistanis near Ziarat-i-Bibi Dost between Zahidan and Nasratabad and brought into camp at Kuhak on 18 March 1905. Several were subsequently seen about Sabzkim, Zaridan and elsewhere. The Biluch Nomads said that the birds bred locally but Cumming was unable to establish this point. Eastwards round Kandahar St. John said it was common on the edge of the desert but did not breed there. Swinhoe mentions a specimen shot at Maiwand by Capt. Cuthill in February. Macoachie's bird was presumably on passage.

Burhinus oedicnemus (Linnaeus).

Specimen collected.—sex? 11 March 1885 Gulran (Aitchison).

Whitehead states (on the authority of Mr. Donald) that the Stone-Plover occurs commonly on the boundary of Afghanistan in the desert country between Jamrud and the Khyber Pass. The above specimen supplies my only record actually within the country. It is in the British Museum (wing 237 mm., tail 117 mm.) and is labelled as *astutus* but it appears to me in colour to be very close to the typical race.

Esacus recurvirostris (Cuvier).

Cumming states that c/2 slightly incubated eggs of the Great Stone-Plover were found by some camel men at Kuhak not far from the Rud-i-Seistan and brought to him on 5 June 1904. As this would be an extension of range for this species and the measurements given (2.06×1.5 in.) would pass for extremes of either this species or the last, the inclusion of the Great Stone-Plover in the Afghan list needs confirmation.

Cursorius cursor cursor (Latham).

Specimens collected.—♀ 19 March Gulran, ♂ 8 June 1885 Karez, Khorasan (Aitchison); ♂ 13 March 1896 Lajjikarez 2,400 ft. (Maynard); sex? March 1903 Nadali, Helmund, 2 sex? April 1903 Khwaja Ahmed (Cumming).

Aitchison says that the Cream-coloured Courser was very common but very wary on the great gravel plains of the north-west and Cumming says that it is found all along the Helmund and its numerous branches. He adds that he had seen them in April so doubtless they breed there.

Glareola pratincola pratincola (Linnaeus).

Specimen collected.—♀ 23 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John).

This specimen, now in the British Museum, provides the only record of the Common Pratincole in Afghanistan.

***Glareola lactea* Temminck.**

Two specimens from Jelalabad taken in March 1840 are listed in the Worcester MS. list in the British Museum.

***Larus ichthyaetus* Pallas.**

Specimens collected.—sex? 14 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph); sex? March 1904 Seistan (Annandale).

According to Cumming the Great Black-headed Gull is fairly common in Seistan. A live bird was captured on 2 April 1904.

***Larus ridibundus ridibundus* Linnaeus.**

Specimens collected.—♂ 30 Dec. 1880 Kandahar, 2 ♂ 13 Feb. Argandab River, ♂ 24 Feb., ♂ 26 Feb.; ♀ 11 March, ♀ 17 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 12 March 1885 Gulran (Aitchison); sex? 18 March Maruchak, Morghab (Yate); sex? Jan. 1904 Seistan (Cumming); sex? 11 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

The Black-headed Gull is a common winter visitor to Kandahar according to St. John and Swinhoe, and the latter says that they started arriving about Christmas, remaining on the marsh in large packs. The above specimens complete our information about the species.

***Larus genei* Brème.**

Specimens collected.—2 ♀ 26 April 1905 Kuhak (Cumming).

Cumming shot the above specimens of the Slender-billed Gull at Kuhak from a small flock which flew overhead.

Blyth (apud Hutton, p. 792) mentions a gull which is figured in Burnes' drawings (of which the originals are in the Indian Museum, Calcutta) as 'shot at Cabul in the middle of February: a bird of passage'. He gives a very good description which in my opinion clearly refers to this species.

***Larus* sp.?**

Large gulls of the *argentatus-fuscus* group occur in Afghanistan and there are the following records which I am not able to identify more exactly:—

(a) *Larus fuscus*. The adult and young are figured by Burnes from Kabul (Hutton, p. 792).

(b) A bird in juvenile plumage in the British Museum labelled 1 Nov. 1879 Kandahar (St. John) was called *Larus affinis* by Howard Saunders.

(c) A specimen, unsexed, from Landi Barech, Feb. 1903, was called *Larus argentatus cachimans* by Annandale.

***Chlidonias hybrida indica* (Stephens).**

Specimens collected, sex? 29 May 1840 (Griffith); 2 ♂ 31 May 1937 Kabul 5,800 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen found hundreds of whiskered-terns on a shallow area of flooded land near Kabul on 31 May.

***Hydroprogne caspia caspia* (Pallas).**

Specimen collected.—♀ 26 April 1905 Kuhak (Cumming).

The above specimen was one of a pair. Cumming says that the Caspian Tern was common in Seistan but he does not mention its status.

***Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica* (Gmelin).**

Specimens collected.—sex? Jelalabad (Griffith); sex? R. Oxus, sex? 12 June 1886 Kham-i-ab, R. Oxus (Yate).

Cumming says that the Gull-billed Tern was common in Seistan and that some pairs were flying about on 22 April. Status uncertain. This and the Little Tern are evidently the species of Tern referred to by Yate (p. 245) as hovering over the pools of water caused by the overflow from the canals.

[*Sterna melanogaster* Temminck.

Cumming says that only a few Black-bellied Terns were seen in Seistan and that it was less common than in India. As no specimens were collected I feel inclined to suggest that the birds seen were in reality Whiskered-term.]

***Sterna hirundo hirundo* Linnaeus.**

Specimens collected.—♀ 28 April 1905 Seistan (Cumming); ♀ 10 May 1937 Danaghori (Meinertzhagen).

Cumming says that the Common Tern was common in Seistan. Meinertzhagen found a few feeding on the open waters on the Danaghori Plains in the second week in May.

***Sterna albirostris* Vroeg.**

Specimens collected.—sex? 12 June 1886 Kham-i-ab, R. Oxus (Yate); ♀ 5 May Khwaja Ahmed, ♂ 6 May, ♂ 7 May 1905 Nasratabad (Cumming).

The above specimens supply the only records of the Little Tern except that Cumming, who says that it is common in Seistan, found pairs flying about on 5 May 1905.

[*Leucopoliis alexandrinus alexandrinus* (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 9 February, ♂ 27 February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe). Swinhoe and St. John say that the Kentish-plover is common in winter in the Kandahar area.

***Haematopus ostralegus* Linnaeus.**

Blyth (apud Hutton p. 789) says of the Oyster-catcher 'Tertah-wuck of Cabul. Also procured by Sir A. Burnes' but I can find no further information about it.]

***Charadrius dubius curonicus* Gmelin.**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Kandahar (Griffith); ♂ 23 April 1879 Kandahar (St. John); ♀ 27 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 20 April 1885 Tirphul, Hari-Rud (Aitchison); 2 sex? 10 April Karawal Khana, Murghab (Yate); ♂ ♀ 11 March 1896 Lijjikarez 2,400 ft. (Maynard); ♂ 1 April 1904, ♀ 9 May 1905 Kuhak (Cumming); ♀ 16 April 1933, ♀ 2 May 1934 Kabul 5,700 ft., ♂ 21 June 1934 Logar 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); 3 ♂ 2 ♀ 6-7 April 1937 Kabul (Meinertzhagen).

The Little Rigid-plover is rather plentiful along the banks of rivers and streams in Seistan according to Cumming and as he saw some there in summer he considered that it most probably bred in the country.

In the Kandahar area it is common in winter according to both St. John and Swinhoe, the former adding that it stays until April.

In Northern Afghanistan, Meinertzhagen considered it to be only a bird of passage. He found it not uncommon in large wisps round water near Kabul in early April and many were seen in a poulturer's shop. A pair on passage on top of the Shibar Pass at 9,000 ft. on 18 April. At Bamian on 19 April a flock of eight arrived in the morning and remained throughout that day. Burnes procured it at Kabul.

It will be noticed however that Maconachie obtained a male at Kabul on 21 June and it seems difficult to believe that the bird does not breed more widely in Afghanistan than these records suggest.

I have combined all these records under the race *curonicus* as some of the specimens undoubtedly belong to it and it is the most likely form to occur. Annandale however records Cumming's birds from Kuhak as *jerdoni* and Maconachie's Logar bird (wing 109.5 mm) would certainly pass as that form.

***Cirripidesmus mongolus atrifrons* Wagler.**

Specimen collected.—♀ 13 March 1896 Lijjikarez 2,400 ft. (Maynard).

This affords the only record of the Lesser Sand-Plover which must be a passage migrant.

***Cirripidesmus leschenaultii* Lesson.**

Specimen collected.—♂ 1896 Shorawak (Maynard).

The Large Sand-Plover must also be a passage migrant but this is the only record.

***Pluvialis dominica fulva* (Gmelin).**

Specimen collected.—sex? Afghanistan (Griffith).

St. John says that he shot a Golden Plover near Khalat-Ghilzai in October 1879 which he was unable to preserve but which he took to belong to the eastern form as the axillaries were not white.

Golden Plovers of sorts were seen by the officers of the Seistan Mission.

***Vanellus vanellus* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 24 Nov., ♂ ♀ 26 Dec. 1880, ♂ 11 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 16 Nov. 1884 between Zind-i-jan and Roznak, ♀ 16 Jan. 1885 Bola-Morghab (Aitchison); sex? 11 Feb. Chahor Sramba, Maimanahi (Scully); ♀ 29 Oct. 1933 ♂ 28 Feb. 1934 Bagرامي 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

The Lapwing is evidently only a winter visitor to Afghanistan. It is common in the Kandahar area according to St. John and Swinhoe and Cumming says it occurs in Seistan. Hutton lists it for Kabul. The only other details are afforded by the above records.

***Chettusia gregaria* (Pallas).**

Specimen collected.—sex? Afghanistan (Griffith); ♀ 20 Oct. 1934 Kalayal (Maconachie).

The only records of the Sociable Lapwing.

***Chettusia leucura* (Lichtenstein).**

Specimens collected.—3 sex? Otipore (Griffith); ♂ 19 Dec. 1880, ♀ 15 March, ♂ 28 March, ♀ 31 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 sex? 12 June Kham-i-ab, R. Oxus (Yate), ♀ Robot (Maynard); ♀ March 1903 Nadali, Helmund, ♀ 23 March 1903 Shahgul on Rud-i-Parium (Annandale); ♂ 6 May 1905 Nasratabad (Cumming).

According to St. John and Swinhoe the White-tailed Lapwing is very common all the winter about Kandahar, but Cumming's specimen was the only one met in the Seistan area. Burnes procured it at Kabul. The only other information is supplied by the above records.

***Lobivanellus indicus aigneri* Laubmann.**

Specimens collected.—♀ 21 Feb., ♂ ♀ 25 Feb., ♂ 15 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 14 March 1896 Duganan 3,500 ft. (Maynard).

According to St. John and Swinhoe the Red-wattled Lapwing is common everywhere in the Kandahar area.

***Himantopus himantopus himantopus* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♂ 27 March, ♂ 5 April 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? R. Oxus, sex? 12 June Kham-i-ab (Yate); ♀ 11 March 1896 Lijjikarez 2,400 ft. (Maynard); ♂ 3 March, ♀ 3 Sept. 1904 Kuhak, ♀ 24 April 1905 Khwaja Ahmed (Cumming).

According to his Journal Griffith met with the Black-winged Stilt at Koonur (Kunar) on 31 March 1840 and at Chughar Serai-i-Pushat on 28 Nov. 1840.

Yate's specimen from Kham-i-ab on 12 June suggests that there may be breeding places in Northern Afghanistan and Cumming says that two birds were shot at Nasratabad by Mr. McManus on 13 May 1905.

In the main however the Stilt is evidently a passage migrant both in spring and autumn. Meinertzhagen saw several in a poulterer's shop at Kabul on 13 April. St. John says they were common in early winter and spring at Kandahar, his specimens being shot on 22 February and 9 April. Swinhoe says they arrived at Kandahar in some numbers in the middle of March. Cumming's specimens from Kuhak (3 March and 3 September) and Khwaja Ahmad (24 April) agree with this status while the two Nasratabad birds (13 May) may have been only late migrants.

***Recurvirostra avosetta* Linnaeus.**

Griffith mentions the Avocet in his Journal as seen at Pushut-Chughar Serai on 28 Nov. Otherwise it is only recorded by Meinertzhagen who saw some in a poulterer's shop at Kabul on 13 April.

***Numenius arquata* (Linnaeus).**

Specimen collected.—sex? Afghanistan (Griffith).

Blyth lists the Curlew from Kabul (apud Hutton p. 790.). Cumming says it is very common along the shores of the Hamuns of Seistan in winter.

***Limosa limosa* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♀ 2 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 6 May 1905 Nasratabad (Cumming); 2 ♂ 12 December 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

Cumming's specimen of the Black-tailed Godwit, which was said to be largely in breeding plumage, was secured on 6 May by Mr. E. A. McManus from a flock of about 20 birds.

Annandale found this species feeding in large flocks at the edge of the Hamun in December. He watched them continuously grubbing in the mud where he himself could find no living thing. An examination of their stomach contents, however, shewed that they were feeding on the seeds of water plants which were doubtless lying dormant ready to sprout when the flood season began.

At Kandahar Swinhoe shot the above specimen out of a number which appeared to be on passage. There is evidently some mistake about Hutton's statement that this godwit is common all the year.

***Tringa ochropus* Linnaeus.**

Specimens collected.—sex? Pushut (Griffith); ♂ 30 Dec. 1880, ♀ 6 January, ♂ 1 February, ♂ 9 February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 9 Dec. 1884 between Ab-i-Kamarra and Ab-i-Shora, ♀ 1 April 1885 Gulram (Aitchison); sex? 14 April Karawal Khana, Murghab (Yate); ♀ Shorawak (Maynard); sex? 3 Sept. 1933 Sar-i-chashma 9,000' (Machonachie); 2 ♀ 13 April Ghorband 6,700 ft., 2 ♂ 18 April 1937 Ghorband 8,200 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Apart from the above records Swinhoe and St. John found the Green Sandpiper common everywhere in the Kandahar area in winter. In the North Meinertzhagen met with it on passage. He says:—Common in the Ghorband Valley in flocks of from eight to fifteen birds in mid-April and were on passage being atrociously fat. At Bamian they were also in flocks, up to twenty birds, on 23 and 24 April. There were several single birds at Danaghori in the marshes on 7 and 8 May.

***Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechstein).**

The Marsh Sandpiper was noted only at Danaghori on 9 May, when a pair was seen, and at Haibak, when three were seen on flooded fields. (Meinertzhagen).

***Tringa hypoleucos* Linnaeus.**

Specimens collected.—sex? 18 May Darband-i-Kel Rekhta, Murghab, sex? 22 May Maruchak (Yate); ♀ 27 August 1933 Logar 5,700, ft. (Machonachie); 3 ♀ 14-18 April, ♀ 24 May 1937 Ghorband (Meinertzhagen).

Both St. John and Swinhoe say that the Common Sandpiper is common in summer in the Kandahar area but no doubt they are referring to non-breeding birds as this species is not likely to be breeding in Southern Afghanistan. It might, however, breed in the Hariab Valley 7,000-8,000 ft. as Wardlaw-Ramsay found a few pairs about the river there in May.

It certainly breeds in Northern Afghanistan. Meinertzhagen found that it had already arrived on the mountain streams by the first week in April and a pair was observed *in copula* in the Ghorbund Valley on 15 April. Observed also in breeding pairs on the river at Doab and Doshi in late April and early May. On the return journey they were noticed breeding in the Ghorbund and Paghman Valleys during the last week of May. Yate's specimens suggest that they breed in the north-west.

Meinertzhagen also observed passage movement for birds were found at Bamian in flocks of twenty individuals on 24 April in association with the Green Sandpiper and all had gone by the following morning.

Tringa glareola Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—♀ 1 May 1881 Gungazai (Swinhoe); ♀ 5 May Khawja Ahmed ♀ 7 May 1905 Nasratabad (Cumming); ♀ 6 August 1933 Bagrami 5,700 ft.; sex? 8 Sept. 1933 Maidan-i-Pai 9,100 ft., ♂ 6 May 1934 Chahar Asia 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

The Wood Sandpiper was numerous in May in Seistan according to Cumming and the above specimens show that it passes through on both migrations. It is common according to St. John. Meinertzhagen saw three at Danaghori on 8 May in the marshes.

Tringa totanus (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♀ 9 January, ♀ 11 January, ♂ 24 January, ♂ 9 February, ♂ 30 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? January, sex? n.d., sex? 7 January 1904 Seistan (Cumming); ♀ 20 May 1937 Khanabad 1,600 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Swinhoe says that the Redshank is common throughout the winter on the banks of the Argendab River and St. John says that it stays till the middle of April. It also occurs in Seistan.

Meinertzhagen's specimen showed slight ovary development but he does not throw light on whether it appeared to be on its breeding ground.

Owing to the war I have not been able to examine the above specimens but Meinertzhagen calls his bird *terrignotae*.

Glottis nebularia (Gunnerus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 6 January, 2 ♀ 8 February 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 6 Sept. 1933 Farakhulm 9,300 ft. (Maconachie).

Both St. John and Swinhoe say that the Greenshank is fairly common in winter in the Kandahar area and Swinhoe says that it appeared to leave early in March.

Philomachus pugnax (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—sex? Afghanistan (Griffith); 2 ♂ 4 March, ♂ 9 March, ♀ 11 March, ♀ 15 March, ♀ 22 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 14-23 April 1874 Panjah, Walthon (Biddulph); ♂ 19 February ♀ 4 April Chahar Shamba (Yate); sex? 1 March 1903 Shaharistan, Seistan (Annandale).

The Ruff and Reeve are common spring passage migrants in Afghanistan, passing through all parts of the country, mostly about the beginning of March. Earliest date 19 February. Meinertzhagen saw a few Reeves, but no Ruffs, in the marshes at Danaghori in 6 and 8 May.

Erolia minuta minuta (Leisler).

Specimen collected.—♀ 5 April 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe).

Both Swinhoe and St. John call the Little Stint a summer visitor to Kandahar but this is of course a mistake for spring passage migrant. Swinhoe says he saw several at Kandahar just before he left and he again saw it at Gungazi, Syed Yarroo and Kushdil Khan (in Baluchistan) in the beginning of May.

Hutton obtained it at Kandahar and Burnes at Kabul.

Erolia temminckii (Leisler).

According to Blyth Temminck's Stint was obtained by Burnes at Kabul. Meinertzhagen saw a few singly and in pairs on the Danaghori marshes in the first week of May.

Erolia alpina alpina (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♀ 7 December, ♂ 8 December, 2 ♂ 13 Dec. 1918.

This affords the only record of the Lesser Sand-Plover which must be a Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

Annandale remarks that these 4 specimens of the Dunlin have wings 108-115 mm., so they must belong to the typical form. No other record.

***Scolopax rusticola* Linnaeus.**

Specimens collected.—sex? 3 February Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); ♀ 26 Dec. 1931 Chailtan 5,900 ft. (Machonachie).

The Woodcock is a winter visitor to Kandahar—as Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe all record—first arriving about October or early in November and increasing with the cold weather about Christmas time and leaving about February or March. A favourite locality is the Arghundab River above Kandahar where extensive orchards and vineyards provide satisfactory cover. Swinhoe says the largest bag he had heard of was five in one day and Swinhoe mentions 20 killed in two days by two guns. Cumming says that one or two only were noted in Seistan. The only other records are provided by the above specimens.

***Capella solitaria* (Hodgson).**

Specimens collected.—sex? Jugdulluck (Griffith); sex? 8 October Delī Tang, Ghorband (Yate); ♀ 26 Dec. 1931 Chohiltan 5,900 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 9 April 1937 Paghman 8,000 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

There is no other information about the Solitary Snipe except Meinertzhagen's statement that his bird was one of a pair, doubtless in their winter quarters, on the rocky stream of the Paghman Valley amid snow and ice.

***Capella gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—sex? Pushut (Griffith); ♂ 19 October 1884 between Hadj-Ali and Lundi, ♀ 17 January Bala-Morghab ♂ 19 March 1885 Gulran (Aitchison); sex? 5 February Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); ♂ 13 March 1896 Lijjikarez (Maynard); ♀ 10 May 1937 Danaghorī 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

The Common or Fantail Snipe is evidently a winter visitor and passage migrant to the whole of Afghanistan from early in September until well into April. In Seistan, snipe settle in large wisps in the dense reed-beds of the Naizars according to Cumming. At Kandahar they swarmed in the large marsh outside the south gate, according to St. John, though better bags were to be made along the watercourses and in the inundated fields. The only idea of the numbers obtainable by sportsmen is given by Cumming who says that 18½ couple on 6 January 1905 was the largest bag for the Mission sportsman. Meinertzhagen says that fairly large bags are made round Kabul in March and April during passage. He noticed a few passing through Bamian on 26 April. On 7 May at Danaghorī several wisps of a dozen birds or so were seen passing north at 6-30 p.m. and about a hundred feet up, calling loudly as they went and other birds from the marshes were seen to respond with a loud call and rise up to and join the migrating party.

At Danaghorī there were one or two single birds in the marshes which may or may not have been going to breed. The female obtained showed slight ovary development.

***Capella stenura* (Bonaparte).**

Cumming says that the Pintail Snipe is common in winter with the Fantail in Seistan, settling in big flocks in the dense reeds of the Naizars. There must be some mistake about this record, possibly confusion with the Great Snipe [*Capella media*].

***Lymnocyptes minima* (Brünnich).**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? Pushut (Griffith); ♂ 19 Oct. 1884 between Hadj-Ali and Lundi, ♂ 5 March 1885 Glran (Aitchison).

In North-west Afghanistan the Jack Snipe was seen occasionally all over the country according to Aitchison and it will be noticed that his specimens give arrival and departure dates of 19 Oct. and 5 March. Cumming says this species is moderately numerous in Seistan. At Kandahar St. John says that it arrives later and leaves earlier than the Fantail and Swinhoe says it came in with the very cold weather about Christmas, was fairly plentiful all through January and then disappeared again.

Meinertzhagen says there were many in the Kabul marshes on spring passage in the first week of April, as many as fifteen being shot in a day. In fact they then seemed to be more abundant than Fantails.

Griffith mentions in his Journal that the Jack Snipe was common at Bala Chughur Serai on 3 March 1840 and he notes it again at Pushut on 31 March 1840.

***Rostratula benghalensis benghalensis* (Linnaeus).**

Specimen collected.—sex? 17 April 1840 Jellalabad (Griffith).
Hutton says that the Painted Snipe occurs at Kandahar.

***Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linnaeus.**

Hutton describes a specimen of the White Pelican which he says was shot in a pool of water at Kandahar. It was alone and from its emaciated condition appeared to have alighted from fatigue. Several were brought into Kandahar, he continues, which had been found sitting on the rocks far from any water and had offered no resistance to capture. All these birds he considered stragglers from the large flocks that arrived on passage at the beginning of March, travelling eastwards.

Cumming also mentions a live specimen brought to Col. A. H. McMahon at Natali on 6 March 1903. This may have been the same bird as the unlabelled specimen which Annandale lists as a very typical example of this species.

As Yate (Northern Afghanistan, p. 56) remarks under Camp Kuhsan, Oct. 1885, that now and then a flock of Pelicans were seen travelling south, this bird would seem to pass over Afghanistan on both passages.

Cumming saw two large Pelicans (species unidentified) on the Hamun-i-Sabari on 12 January 1905.

***Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* (Shaw & Nodder).**

Specimens collected.—♀ 14 March, ♀ 16 March 1881 Arghandab River (Swinhoe); sex? 19 March Maruchak, Badghis (Yate); sex? Feb. 1904 Seistan (Annandale).

Griffith describes in his Journal two cormorants 'distinct from any I have seen hitherto, very black with some white marks. The common black one also seen.' This was at Bala Chughur Serai on 16 March 1840.

St. John says the cormorant is occasionally seen on the Arghandab River but is not common. Swinhoe's two specimens were the only ones he saw.

In Seistan, cormorants are common. Annandale says they are captured and shot in large numbers by the Saiyids. The down from the breasts is sometimes mixed with the soft wool out of which the felt hats worn by Persians are made.

Scully says that the Maruchak specimen is in full breeding plumage.

***Phalacrocorax niger* (Vieillot).**

Specimens collected.—sex? 28 Dec. 1884, ♀ 12 Jan., ♀ Jan. 1885 Bala Morghab (Aitchison).

The only records of the Little Cormorant.

***Phalacrocorax pygmaeus* (Pallas).**

Specimen collected.—♀ 7 May 1937 Danaghori 2,300 ft. (Meinertzhagen).

Meinertzhagen says that the Pygmy Cormorant was not uncommon at Danaghori but he found no evidence of nesting though the large reed-beds were ideal for it.

***Platalea leucorodia* Linnaeus.**

Specimens collected.—2 sex? 25 March 1885 Kalla-i-Maur, Badghis (Aitchison); ♂ 4 June 1931 Bagram 4,900 ft. (Maconachie).

The Spoonbill was procured at Kabul by Sir A. Burnes. St. John says that he saw one at Khalat-i-Ghilzai and heard of others being shot. The specimens complete the records, but Maconachie's bird was received from captivity.

It should however be recalled that Magrath and Whitehead were standing on the Peiwar Kotal (8,200 ft.) on 30 April 1906 when a flock of about 20 Spoonbills came up from the Kurram and passed overhead—but apparently not

relishing the strong north-west wind which met them as they topped the Kotal (i.e. pass) they wheeled round and flew back down the valley' (Ibis, 1909, p. 278).

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—sex? Pushut, sex? Afghanistan (Griffith); sex? 14-23 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph).

From Griffith's Journal it is probable that his Pushut specimen was obtained on 31 March 1840. Sir A. Burnes met with the Glossy Ibis at Kabul and St. John says that a solitary bird is found here and there about the Kandahar area. Meinertzhagen saw a flock of twelve birds at Danaghori feeding in the marsh on 6 and 7 May. A second and larger flock was seen in a marsh near Kabul on 31 May.

Caiconia ciconi (Linnaeus).

St. John says that the White Stork is occasionally noted at Kandahar on spring and autumn passage but curiously enough no one else has recorded it.

Ciconia nigra (Linnaeus).

Meinertzhagen met with a single Black Stork in the stream-bed of the Bamian Valley on 27 April. It was very wild, rising at 500 yards and sitting on a rock so situated that he could see all around him. Blyth says that Burnes procured this species at Kabul.

Ardea cinerea Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—♂ 12 Dec., ♀ 17 Dec. 1880, ♂ 2 Jan., ♂ 26 Feb. 1881 (Swinhoe); sex? Feb. 1903 Khwaja Ali, sex? Dec. 1904 Farrah Rud (Cumming); ♂ 26 March 1933 Jebel Siraj 5,400 ft. (Maconachie).

The Heron is common in winter in the Kandahar area according to St. John and Swinhoe and Cumming found it in Seistan. Whether it breeds in the country is unknown. Sir Alexander Burnes obtained it at Kabul and Meinertzhagen saw specimens there for sale on 13 April. The latter saw several every day in the marshes at Danaghori in the second week in May and a single bird at Kunduz on 21 May.

Egretta alba alba (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 24 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 11 June 1933 Kabul 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

Meinertzhagen saw two specimens of the Large Egret near Kabul, namely a tired bird resting on ploughed land on 11 April and a second bird in a marsh on 31 May. The late date of Maconachie's bird should be noted. According to St. John and Swinhoe it is not uncommon about Kandahar, the latter considering it a winter visitor leaving about the end of March.

Herodias garzetta (Linnaeus).

According to Blyth the Little Egret was obtained by Sir Alexander Burnes at Kabul but there is no other record.

Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus).

Specimen collected.—♀ 1 May 1934 Jalalabad 1,800 ft. (Maconachie).

Meinertzhagen saw six Night Herons at Kunduz on 20 May flying over the marshes at dusk. In addition to Maconachie's specimen and St. John's statement that there was a small colony in a garden near Kandahar this bird is only recorded by Hutton as found in the winter on the banks of the larger rivers.

Ixobrychus minuta minuta (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—sex? 28 April, sex? 1 May, sex? 15 June 1870 Kandahar (St. John); sex? April 1903 Khwaja Ali (Cumming); ♂ 27 May 1934 Bagrami 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

These records are only supplemented by St. John's remark that the Little Bittern is not uncommon at Kandahar in summer.

***Botaurus stellaris stellaris* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♀ 18 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 29 Dec. 1884 Bala Morghab, ♂ 15 Feb. 1885 Karawal Khana, Bedghis (Aitchison); sex? Dec. 1904 Farrah Rud (Cumming); ♂ 15 March 1933 Bagrami 5,700 ft. (Maconachie); ♂ 10 April 1937 Kabul (Meinertzhagen).

The Bittern appears to be very generally distributed in Afghanistan. At Kunduz on 20 May Meinertzhagen heard continuous booming in the marshes towards sunset and one is probably justified in believing that the birds were on their breeding ground. In the Morghab in winter Aitchison found it very common, living in exactly the same places as the pheasants. At Kabul according to Meinertzhagen it is a regular bird of passage and many are shot in the marshes there in spring. In the south Cumming's specimen shows that it is found in Seistan and Hutton says that it is found along the banks of the larger rivers such as the Arghandab and the Helmund. At Kandahar it seems to be a winter visitor but Swinhoe only met with it between the middle of February and the middle of March.

[*Phoenicopterus ruber roseus* Pallas.

Cumming states that he saw a flock of Flamingoes flying over the Mission Camp at Kuhak on 28 April 1905, travelling north in the direction of the Hamuns and odds that other flights were seen from time to time. The identification of the flocks with this species seems conjectural though no doubt both species of Flamingo occur in the country.]

***Phoeniconaias minor* Geoffroy.**

Specimen collected.—sex? June 1904 Kuhak (Cumming).

This specimen was identified by Mr. Stuart Baker who says that it is a young bird but exceptionally large with a wing of 13.6 in. (345 mm.). There seems, however, to be some confusion over the data as Cumming himself says that the only specimen secured by the Mission was shot by K. B. Mir Shams Shah on the Farrah Rud in Dec. 1904.

***Cygnus cygnus* (Linnaeus).**

Specimen collected.—[♂] Dec. 1904 Hamun-i-Sabari (Cumming).

Cumming says that 'a fine specimen of the Whooper Swan was brought into the Mission Camp on the Farrah Rud on 13 January 1905. It was shot by a Sayid (Fowler) on the Hamun-i-Sabari where it appears to be fairly numerous. Many of the young are said to have been caught on the Hamuns so that this Swan may be considered a resident.

This is evidently the same specimen mentioned by Stuart Baker (p. 132) and by Colonel Sir Henry McMahon (Ibis, 1906, p. 398) who says that it was obtained on 14 January 1905. I presume the contradiction in dates would have been due to the Sayid bringing in the bird as a skin and not in the flesh. Sir Henry goes on to state that the Mission observed a great many swans, all as far as he could see of the same species, and that he also saw several young birds which had been bred on the Hamun. This information was elicited by a note in the Ibis by Buturlin (Ibis, 1906, p. 737) suggesting on the authority of Sarudny that it was the Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) that bred in Seistan and that the Whooper was only a rare winter visitor to the country. Dr. Annandale (Ibis, 1906, p. 612) and Mr. A. Thomson (Ibis, 1907, p. 511) then wrote to confirm the identification of the specimen as a Whooper Swan.

Cumming was of opinion that the Mute Swan also occurred on the Hamuns of Seistan though no specimen had been procured.

***Anser anser* (Linnaeus).**

According to Cumming the Grey-Lag is common in Seistan. He preserved no specimens but says he obtained one near the Hamun-i-Sabari on 27 Dec. 1904 and was sent another from Kila-i-Nao during March 1905.

According to Hutton this species is a winter visitor to Kandahar. As Swinhoe, St. John and Murray all mention geese of sorts as being fairly common about Kandahar and the River Argandab, the probability is that they are, mostly referring to this species.

[*Anser albifrons* (Scopoli).

Murray says that a Mr. Hutchins obtained the White-fronted Goose on the Argandab River. Swinhoe says that he noted two (and he believed three) kinds of geese on that river in the winter.]

***Tadorna tadorna* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—sex? Feb. Oxus River (Yate); pull, August, pull. n.d. Seistan, ♂ juv. Sept. Kuhak, 2 ♂ juv. 3 Oct. 1904 Seistan (Cumming); ♂ ad. 14 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale); ♀ 12 Nov. 1934 Kabul 5,700 ft. (Maconachie).

Cumming has the following note on the Sheldrake in Seistan:—'This is a permanent resident in Seistan and rather numerous during the winter. On 22 April 1904 the Irrigation Camp came across a large number of very young ducklings of this species between Chah Mahomed Raza and Sekkoha, in small bushes at the foot of the high "dasht" on a dry portion of the Hamun. Near by were some low reeds, while the water of the Hamun itself was some three hundred yards off. There were several full grown sheldrakes, each followed by a brood of some 15 or 16 ducklings. Eleven of these ducklings were captured and sent to me and a few of them lived till they were full grown. On 24 June 1904 one of these flew away and I was compelled to clip the wings of the remainder.'

Hutton says the Sheldrake is a winter visitor to Kandahar as it may also be at Kabul and on the Oxus.

***Casarca ferruginea* (Pallas).**

Specimens collected.—♀ 25 Feb., ♂ 1 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 10 April Karawol Khana, Murghab (Yate); ♂ 6 March 1886 Gulran (Aitchison).

According to Dr. Aitchison the Ruddy Sheldrake was occasionally seen and was breeding in the cliffs overhanging the Hari-Rud River.

Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe all agree that it is a winter visitor to Kandahar.

***Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus.**

Specimen collected.—♀ Shorawak (Maynard).

Meinertzhagen considers it probable that the Mallard breeds at Danaghori where a few were seen in pairs in suitable country on 6 May.

St. John says that he had seen 'a related couple or two' on the Argandab River as late as the first week in June.

With the exception of these two statements the Mallard is only known as a winter visitor or passage migrant to Afghanistan. At Kandahar Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe all found it common. St. John says it arrives about the end of October or early in November. Swinhoe found it common in January and February, starting to leave again at the beginning of March and all being gone by the middle of the month.

In Seistan Cumming says it is numerous on the Hamuns, arriving late in autumn and leaving in March.

Meinertzhagen found this to be the most abundant species of duck about Kabul both in the winter months and on spring passage.

***Eunetta falcata* (Georgi).**

Specimen collected.—[♂] 28 Dec. 1884 Bala Morghab (Aitchison).

This specimen, shot by Capt. Heath, provides the only record of the Bronze-capped Teal for Afghanistan.

***Chaulelasmus streperus* (Linnaeus).**

Specimens collected.—♂ 14 Feb., ♂ 18 Feb., ♀ 20 Feb., ♂ 20 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ ♀ 22 Jan., ♂ 9 Feb. 1885 Bala Morghab (Aitchison); sex? 16 April Karawal Khana, Murghab (Yate).

The Gadwall is a winter visitor and passage migrant to Afghanistan and in addition to the above records from the north Burnes records it from Kabul and Meinertzhagen saw it hanging up for sale there on 13 April. In the

Kandahar area St. John says it was common throughout the winter and Swinhoe found it in great numbers throughout the months of January, February and March, leaving about the end of the last mentioned month.

In Seistan also Cumming says it leaves in March but there he did not find it common.

Mareca penelope (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♀ Otipore (Griffith); ♂ 14 Jan., ♂/♀ 20 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 14 Jan. 1884, ♂ 20 Jan. 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); ♂ 15 March Maruchak, Morghab (Yate); ♀ Shorawak (Maynard).

Swinhoe says that a few Wigeon are occasionally shot at Kandahar in January and February but that the species was scarce and he did not see it before or after those months. St. John also found it uncommon but Hutton calls it a winter visitor, disappearing gradually to the end of April.

In addition to the records for the north provided by the above specimens I may add that Meinertzhagen saw this species exposed for sale in Kabul on 13 April.

Nettion crecca crecca (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♀ 14-23 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph); 2 ♂ 17 Dec., ♀ 23 Dec., ♀ 25 Dec. 1880 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 23 Jan. 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); ♂ 25 Jan. Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); ♂ 1896 Sahibzada (Maynard); ♂ 3 Oct. 1904 Kuhak (Cumming); ♂ 8 Dec., ♂ 11 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

The Teal is said to be a very common winter visitor to the whole of Afghanistan wherever there is any suitable water, being found alike in the north, in Seistan and in the Kandahar area. It is also numerous on passage and Cumming relates how Capt. R. C. Bell saw thousands all over the country between Kuhak, Zahidan and Lutak between 1 and 10 April 1905. Every piece of water he came to was literally covered with them.

Whether the Teal breeds in the country is not quite clear. Swinhoe understood that it did so in the Kandahar area and says that he flushed 2 or 3 pairs at Syed Yaroo and Gangazai from the reeds in the watercourse at the beginning of May. Cumming says it appears to breed in Seistan and Meinertzhagen thought that it probably bred at Danaghori where he saw the birds in pairs in suitable country on 8 May.

Dafila acuta (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♀ 18 Feb., ♂ 20 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 8 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

The Pintail appears to be one of the commoner ducks of Afghanistan as a winter visitor. Burnes and Meinertzhagen both record it from Kabul. St. John found large flocks in the inundated fields bordering the river near Kelati-Ghilzai in October. Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe say they are common at Kandahar in winter, Swinhoe adding that they left altogether about the middle of March.

In Seistan they are also common, arriving late in autumn and leaving in March according to Cumming.

Querquedula querquedula (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 14-23 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph); ♂ 28 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe).

The above specimens, doubtless birds on passage, furnish the only records of the Garganey for Afghanistan beyond the statement made by Blyth that Burnes obtained it at Kabul.

Spatula clypeata (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—sex? 14-23 April 1874 Panjah, Wakhan (Biddulph); ♂ 15 Feb., ♀ 27 Feb., ♂ 21 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ 18 March 1885 Kalla-i-Maur, Badghis (Aitchison); ♂ 1896 Shorawak (Maynard).

The Shoveller is said by Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe to be a common winter visitor to the Kandahar area which it leaves in March according to Swinhoe. Cumming found it numerous on the Hamuns of Seistan and suspected

that it might breed there. Burnes and Meinertzhagen record it from Kabul. Further north our only records are furnished by the above specimens.

Marmaronetta angustirostris (Menetries).

Specimens collected.—♀ 7 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); sex? 27 Oct. 1884 between De-Kamran and De-Doda, sex? n.d. Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); sex? 12 June Kham-i-ab, R. Oxus, Afghan Turkestan (Yate); 4 juvs. 6 July 1904, ♂ 22 April 1905 Kuhak (Cumming).

The headquarters of the Marbled-Duck in Afghanistan are evidently in Seistan and it is worthwhile quoting Cumming's account:—'Within a radius of 4 miles round Kuhak, Major T. W. Irvine, I.M.S., and Capt. R. C. Bed between 7 and 23 April 1904 shot no less than 80 of this species alone. It is a permanent resident and begins to breed at the end of April. I shot a pair on 22 April 1905 near Kuhak and found on examination that the female would have laid in about a week's time, while on 5 May of the same year a female with nest and 16 eggs, all more or less fresh, was sent to me by Lala Thakur-dass, Irrigation Supervisor, from near Old Shaharistan. Ducklings were also brought to me on the following dates:—

1 June 1904	...	...	...	1
14 June 1904	...	...	...	2
6 July 1904	...	...	...	5, nearly full-grown.
8 July 1904	...	...	...	Several, nearly full-grown.

I also shot a fully-grown bird on the Rud-i-Seistan on 3 October 1904.'

At Kandahar, according to St. John, the Marbled-Duck is not very common, most large bags containing one or two, but Swinhoe says that his specimen was the only one obtained. The only other records are furnished by the specimens enumerated above.

Netta rufina (Pallas).

Specimens collected.—♂ 28 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 ♂ Jan. 23 Jan. 1885 (Aitchison); ♀ Dec. 1904 Farrah Rud (Annandale).

According to St. John the Red-crested Pochard was not uncommon at Kandahar but Swinhoe says that he did not meet with it except in March when he knew of 5 being shot. Cumming found it numerous on the Hamuns of Seistan in winter and thought that it might remain to breed in the Naizar. Burnes recorded it from Kabul. The only other records are provided by the above specimens.

Nyroca ferina (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 9 March, ♀ 11 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 ♂ 10 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

Burnes met with the Common Pochard at Kabul and Meinertzhagen noticed it exposed for sale there on 13 April. At Kandahar both St. John and Swinhoe found it uncommon, the former saying that it was not as frequently met as the Red-crested Pochard, the latter saying that a few were shot in March only.

In Seistan Cumming found it common in winter and he hazards his usual suggestion that it might breed on the Naizars.

Nyroca rufa (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 14 Feb., ♂ 17 Feb., ♂ 19 Feb. 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♂ ♀ 5 March Kila Wali, Murghab, ♂ 16 March Maruchak, Badghis (Yate).

Hutton, St. John and Swinhoe all agree that the White-eye is very common in the Kandahar area. Swinhoe indeed calls it the commonest duck in the country after the Gadwall and says that it arrived in the beginning of February and suggests that some appear to remain in the country to breed. He flushed many pairs out of reeds and tamarisk on the banks of the water-courses in the Pishin and right down the Bolan as far as Kirta in May (though these localities are of course actually across the Baluch border). Maynard met it on the Afghan-Baluch border.

Cumming found it common in Seistan in winter. Yate's specimens from the Morghab and Badghis complete the record.

Nyroca fuligula (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 19 Feb. 1881 Kandahar, 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 5 March 1881 Kokeran (Swinhoe); sex? 20 Feb. Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate); ♂ Afghan-Biloch border (Maynard).

The Tufted-Duck is very common at Kandahar according to Swinhoe, arriving at the beginning of April. Cumming found it in winter in Seistan. Burnes found it common at Kabul where Meinertzhagen saw it exposed for sale on 13 April. Yate's Maimanah specimen completes the record.

Glaucionetta clangula (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—♂ 15 Jan. 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); ♀ 12 Feb. Chahar Shamba, Maimanah, sex? 15 March, ♂ 20 March Maruchak, Morghab (Yate); ♂ Dec. 1904 Hamun, Seistan (Annandale).

The above records suggest that the Golden-eye is a winter visitor to Afghanistan generally but in spite of Hutton's remark that it is common at Kandahar—neither Swinhoe nor St. John record it—it would seem to be uncommon. Cumming says that only two specimens were shot in Seistan by the members of his Mission. That was in January 1905 when the cold was unusually severe.

Erisimatura leucocephala (Scopoli).

Specimens collected.—♂ ♀ 20 Oct. 1879 Jameh River near Khelat-i-Ghilzai; sex? 21 March Maruchak (Yate).

The Stiff-tailed Duck was first discovered in Afghanistan by St. John who procured the above pair of immature birds on 20 October 1879 on the Jameh River near Khelat-i-Ghilzai. The event is recorded in full by Hume in *Stray Feathers*, vol. viii, p. 456. Yate then obtained a specimen on 21 March at Maruchak and later Cumming found it very common on the Hamuns of Seistan during the winter when several were shot but apparently not preserved by members of the Mission.

Mergellus albellus (Linnaeus).

Specimens collected.—2 ♀ 30 Jan. 1881 Argendab River near Kokeran, ♀ 2 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); 2 ♂ 1 ♀ 29 Dec. 1884 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison); ♂ 10 Feb. Maimanah, ♂ 12 Feb., ♀ 17 Feb. Chahar Shamba, Maimanah (Yate).

The list of the above specimens is supplemented by Hutton's statement that he only saw one specimen of the Smew at Kandahar but heard that it was common in winter near Ghuzni.

Mergus serrator Linnaeus.

Specimens collected.—♀ 21 Jan. ♂ 30 Jan. 1885 Bala-Morghab (Aitchison). I can trace no other record of the Red-breasted Merganser in Afghanistan.

Podiceps cristatus (Linnaeus).

The Great Crested Grebe is only recorded by Cumming who says that it is fairly common in the Seistan Hamuns during winter. He adds that on 4 February 1904 he saw several near Puzak in the deep open patches of water.

Podiceps ruficollis capensis Salvadori.

Specimens collected.—♂ 4 March, 2 ♀ 8 March 1881 Kandahar (Swinhoe); ♀ 11 Dec. 1918 Lab-i-Baring (Annandale).

The Little Grebe is very common among the reed-beds of the Hamun in winter according to Annandale and it must breed there as a young bird was brought to Cumming at Kuhak on 7 July 1904. Hutton says it is common in the marshes and pools south of Kandahar in winter but St. John and Swinhoe both—probably more correctly—say that it is found there on passage in spring and autumn. Swinhoe says that it arrived in the beginning of March.

In conclusion it is perhaps worth stating that I can find no evidence for the inclusion of the following species or races in the avifauna of Afghanistan though that country is included in their range as given in the second edition of the *Fauna of British India, Birds*. That many of them do actually occur within Afghan boundaries is of course not improbable.

Corvus splendens zugmayeri.
Dendrocitta vagabunda
Parus major intermedius.
Parus palustris korejewi.
Molpastes leucogenys leucogenys.
Certhia himalayana taeniura.
Oenanthe monacha.
Phoenicurus frontalis.
Rhyacornis fuliginosa.
Calliope pectoralis pectoralis.
Prunella himalayanus.
Pericrocotus roseus.
Phylloscopus tyleri.
Phylloscopus pulcher kangrae.
Seicercus xanthoschistos albosuperciliaris.

Scotocerca inquieta striata.
Cephalopyrus flammiceps.
Sturnus vulgaris humei.
Uroloncha malabarica.
Mycerobas melanoxanthus.
Hirundo rustica gutturalis.
Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni.
Eremophila alpestris longirostris.
Cinnyris asiatica brevirostris.
Clamator jacobinus.
Gyps himalayensis.
Columba leuconota.
Pterocles lichtensteini.
Lerwa lerwa.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF SPORT IN ASSAM.

BY

H. G. H. M.

(Continued from page 332 of volume 45).

PART III.

In some parts of the plains of Assam are to be found vast stretches of country covered by grass in patches, in some places high and dense, in others light and interspersed with open spaces covered by green grass. These uncultivated areas are called 'chapris' and a well known one is the 'Pakar Chapri' which is surrounded by heavy, dense jungle bordered on three sides by a stream in which there used to be very good fishing. I use the past tense, for in Assam, as in most parts of India, the people of the country have woefully diminished the freshwater fish supply of the land by all sorts of poaching and destructive malpractices: and this is true of even the larger rivers.

To get to the 'Pakar Chapri' from Sadiya one drives to the bank of the Brahmaputra river which is then crossed by means of a 'mar'. On the other side is a wide stretch of sand—this is in the cold season when the river runs low—over which is laid a brushwood track for the easier passage of motor cars. Thus one arrives at Saikwa Ghat, the terminus of the Assam-Bengal Railway. From here one motors for miles and miles through heavy tree jungle, the haunt of all sorts of wild animals, and a rich avian life. Then one arrives at Kobo on the Brahmaputra which is reached by again crossing the river on a 'mar'. During this passage over the river there are sandbanks to be avoided and there are days when the crossing can be dangerous owing to a sudden rise in the river which at this place has not long issued from the mountains. Thinking of Kobo brings to mind the occasion when the Assistant Commandant at Pasighat was on his